

Tanganyika Territory, to Nyasaland as far north as Kota-Kota ; Northern Rhodesia, southern Portuguese East Africa and northern Transvaal.

CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA ERLANGERI Reichenow.

Distribution.—Coastal area of Italian Somaliland and Kenya Colony from the lower Juba River and Manda Island to Tanganyika Territory from north-eastern area between the coast and Amani and Handeni and as far west as Mpapwa.

(4) On the Type-locality of *Anomalospiza imberbis* (Cabanis), J. f. O. 1868, p. 412.

Cabanis, in *Reisen von der Decken*, iv. 1870, p. 454, gives Mombasa to Zanzibar, and Selater, *Syst. Av. Æthiop.* 1930, p. 784, gives “probably on the coast opposite Zanzibar”.

As this species is found over a very wide area, including the whole of Kenya Colony, we consider that the first locality given by Cabanis, *i. e.* Mombasa, should be accepted as the type-locality of *Anomalospiza imberbis* (Cabanis).

(5) On the Status of *Cryptospiza borealis* Percival, Bull. B. O. C. xxix. 1912, p. 76 : Mount Urguess, northern Kenya Colony.

We have examined the types of this race and find that they are both young birds of *Cryptospiza salvadorii salvadorii* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1892, p. 187 : Sciolitat, Shoa, central Abyssinia. Therefore *Cryptospiza borealis* Percival becomes a synonym of *Cryptospiza salvadorii salvadorii* Reichenow.

(6) Occurrence of the West African Green-backed Twin-spot in Northern Angola.

Dr. D. A. Bannerman in Bull. B. O. C. lxiv. 1944, p. 41, records *Mandingoa nitidula schlegeli* (Sharpe) from Fernando Po, and we can now record its occurrence at Quiscolungo in northern Angola on an adult female collected by R. H. Braun on March 25, 1939. Collector's no. 20. This specimen is in the British Museum collection.

Notes on East African Birds.

Dr. V. G. L. VAN SOMEREN sent the following notes :—

(1) On the Status of *Phyllastrephus keniensis* Mearns.

In 1914 the late Dr. Mearns described the Mount Kenya bird (Smith. Misc. Coll. no. 25, p. 2) as a race of *P. f. placidus* Shelley, type-locality Kilimanjaro. Selater in ‘*Systema Avium Æthiopicarum*’, p. 384, places *P. f. placidus* as a race of *P. f. fischeri* of Muniumi, lower Juba River.

In 1922 I tentatively admitted *P. f. keniensis* without criticism (Nov.

Zool. xxii. p. 185). In 1932 I placed Mearn's bird as a synonym of *P. f. placidus* on the material then available to me. Moreau, Bull. B. O. C. 1937, pp. 126-27, does the same, and this view is supported by Grant and Praed.

In July 1943 my son, G. R. C. van Someren, procured specimens from the forest above Meru, Mount Kenya, and this led me to re-examine my long series of *P. f. fischeri*. The Meru birds proved to be considerably darker above and below, and I accordingly asked my friend Mr. J. P. Benson, of Meru, to collect a series. This material, 14 specimens, is now to hand.

These birds, together with my son's material, are very uniform and are altogether darker above and more strongly washed below on breast and flanks with olive, and the ear-coverts are very much darker than any other race. I have therefore taken the opportunity to lay out the whole of my very large topotypical series from Kilimanjaro, *P. f. placidus*, Mount Marsabit, *P. f. marsabit*, and Mount Kenya (Meru).

There is not the slightest doubt that the three are distinct. The Meru birds are the darkest, the Mount Marsabit birds the palest; thus we have a dark bird cutting in across the distribution of the other two.

It is unfortunate that the type-locality of *P. f. keniensis* is merely stated to be Mount Kenya at 8500 feet, without reference to east or west aspects, an important matter, for they differ. The question arises, can the name *P. f. keniensis* Mearns be applied to these Meru birds?

Friedmann, in Bull. U. S. N. H. Mus. 153, with Mearn's type before him, united *P. f. keniensis* with *P. f. placidus*, but one must note the paucity of his topotypical material of the latter.

It is of interest to note here that Moreau states that the egg of *P. f. placidus* of Amani, Usambara, of which *P. f. cognitus* Grote is said to be a synonym, has a grey-green ground colour. I have seen dozens of clutches here (Ngong, Nairobi), and they all have pink grounds. I personally recognize *P. f. cognitus* as distinct.

In Bull. B. O. C. lx. pp. 39-40, Grant and Praed dispose of my race *P. f. chyuluensis* as a synonym of *P. f. placidus* without having seen any of the original or even topotypical material. They had one bird from Taita, a totally different region!

(2) A new Race of *Phyllastrephus terrestris* Swainson.

Amongst the birds submitted to me by Mr. Benson was a specimen of *P. terrestris*, which I at once recognized as distinct from the coastal Kenya Colony bird, which is associated with the race *P. t. suahelicus* Reichenow, type-locality Bagamoyo, Tanganyika Territory. The distribution given by Selater in the 'Systema' should be extended to include

the Kenya Colony coast belt, if the Kenya Colony birds are *P. t. suahelicus*. Mr. Benson has now secured further material, which he has given to me.

There would appear to be no previous record of *Phyllastrephus terrestris* from inland Kenya Colony.

***Phyllastrephus terrestris bensoni*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Differs from *P. terrestris suahelicus* Reichenow of the Kenya Colony coast belt by being much more olivaceous on the upper side, in having a much darker crown and ear-coverts, and less white around the eye; much darker wings, rump and tail; the sides of the breast and flanks more olivaceous, thus the white of the throat is more accentuated; the underside of the body is more streaked with yellowish; larger.

Distribution.—Only known from the lower Meru forests and lower Chuka, at 4000 to 4600 feet.

Type.—In my collection. Male adult, in fresh plumage and gonads enlarged. Lower Meru forest, 4000 feet. Collected by J. P. Benson, no. 459, June 1944.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 98, culmen 17, tail 100, tarsus 20 mm.

Remarks.—Paratypes, male, Makinduri, March 13, 1944, female June 14, 1944. Occurs in the lower Meru-Chuka forests, and not found in the higher forests. The female is smaller and more streaked with yellowish on the underside. Named in honour of Mr. J. P. Benson, who collected the material. The line of northward extension of this species, as with others, would appear to be up the Tana River valley*.

(3) Note on *Stilbopsar kenricki* (Shelley).

Amongst the birds submitted by Mr. Benson were examples of this small forest Starling. His material agreed with two skins taken by me many years ago at Meru, which I had tentatively placed as *S. kenricki*, type-locality Usambara, though they showed a distinct difference to material from the Kilimanjaro-Taveta forest. I asked Mr. Benson to secure a long series; he has submitted 14 adults. They substantiate the points of difference previously noted. I therefore submit a description of this racial form as

***Stilbopsar kenricki bensoni*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Larger than *S. kenricki kenricki* (Shelley), with a longer, heavier bill; much blacker in general plumage, without the distinct

* Cf. *Sigmodius scopifrons*, *Neocossyphus rufus*, *Halcyon albiventris*, *Hypargos niveoguttatus*, *Bias musicus*, *Lamprocolius corruscus*, etc., all of which appear as recognizable inland races.

change in upper and lower breast; belly, brassy purply tone of the nominotypical race; less brassy on the upper side.

Distribution.—The eastern slopes of Mount Kenya, descending to the forests on the 6000-foot level.

Type.—In my collection. Male adult, Meru, Mount Kenya, 6500 feet. Collected by J. P. Benson, no. 3, February 1944.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 112, culmen 15, tail 98 mm.

Remarks.—Breeding in the higher forests, coming to the lower elevations to feed on fruiting trees. Associates in large flocks. Young of the season are on the wing in May, whereas young of *S. k. kenricki* of comparable age are noted in August. (Taveta-Lumi.) Comparative wing measurements are: Meru birds, 109 to 113, average 111 mm. Kilimanjaro area, 100 to 106, average 104 mm. for the males; the females, Meru 106, Kilimanjaro 97 to 103 mm.

Nineteen specimens of the new race, including the type, are in my collection.

(2) Presumed new Records from Uganda.

A further visit to the Bwamba district of western Ruwenzori has produced the following material which, although recorded from the Semliki-Ituri region, has not hitherto been obtained from within the Uganda Protectorate. They are here recorded so that they may be listed in Mackworth-Praed and Grant's Handbook.

Urotiorchis macrourus Hartlaub has been noted on several occasions, and probably belongs to the race *U. m. batesi* Swann, recorded from the Ituri.

Columba albinucha Sassi. Placed as a race of *C. arquatrix* Temminck & Knip by Selater, in the 'Systema', is considered by Chapin to be a distinct species. Specimens of both species were obtained in the same general area, but *C. arquatrix* at higher elevations.

Agapornis swinderiana (Kuhl). A species not hitherto recorded; now taken at Bwamba. Neumann's race, *C. emini* Neumann, from the Ituri, is considered not distinct from *C. zenkeri* Reichenow by Chapin.

Chrysococcyx flavigularis Shelley. Chapin states that the species is to be found in the Ituri. A specimen was secured from Bwamba.

Bycanistes albotibialis Cabanis and Reichenow. Has been recorded from the Semliki by Chapin, and is now taken in the Bwamba Valley.

Neocossyphus rufus arrhenii Lönnberg. Described from Beni, but considered by Selater to be doubtfully distinct from *N. gabunensis* Neumann. Now taken in the Bwamba Valley.

Pœoptera lugubris major Neumann. A new record for Uganda, though previously taken in the Ituri. Said by Sclater to be doubtfully distinct from the nominotypical *P. lugubris* Bonaparte.

A Note on the Larks of the *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Group.

Mr. C. M. N. WHITE sent the following note, with a description of a new race :—

In Bull B. O. C. lxiv. 1943, p. 21, I commented on specimens of *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* (Salvadori) from western Balovale which were much paler than *M. r. zombæ* O.-Grant. I have now been able to examine additional material and also study further allied forms, and, therefore, offer the following notes. The Clapper Larks, which make the characteristic wing-claps when high in the air, form a distinctive group. Although currently placed under several species, I believe that probably only two species are involved in South and Central Africa, and it is questionable whether these overlap. I would rearrange them as follows :—

MIRAFRA APIATA APIATA (Vieillot).

General aspect above very grey.

Distribution.—South-western Cape Province. (Two examined.)

MIRAFRA APIATA ALGOENSIS (Roberts).

Similar to *M. a. apiata*, but with the outer web of the primaries much more extensively rufous.

Distribution.—Eastern Cape Province. (Five examined from Knysna, Paarl, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Hopetown.)

MIRAFRA APIATA ADENDORFFI Roberts.

Differs from the preceding in the strong admixture of rufous on the upper side, especially on the head-top.

Distribution.—Little Namaqualand to van Rhynsdorp district. (Six examined.)

Note.—This bird cannot be anything but a race of *M. apiata*, and forms a link between the grey-backed *M. apiata* group and the rufous-backed *M. a. hewitti* (Roberts) group.

MIRAFRA APIATA HEWITTI (Roberts).

General aspect above deep rufous : some birds show a quite defined blackish barring above, especially when worn, indicating the affinity of this form to the preceding, which has much more grey above and is darker rufous below. Birds from the Transvaal are the darkest in this series, but there is too much individual variation to justify the recognition of further geographical races.